

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Sander M. Levin  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Comments Regarding Footwear Miscellaneous Tariff Bills

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the miscellaneous tariff bills (MTBs) under your consideration.

The Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA) and its members strongly support the miscellaneous tariff bill process in order to provide duty relief and strengthen American businesses and consumers. FDRA is the nation's largest footwear trade association accounting for approximately 75% of all footwear sales in the United States. FDRA represents the industry's leading retailers, brands and buying agents. Our U.S. footwear retailers include Foot Locker, JC Penney, Payless ShoeSource, Famous Footwear and Zappos, as well as major brand names and distributors such as Nike, PUMA, K-Swiss, Steve Madden, and Wolverine Worldwide.

As you may know, 99 percent of all footwear sold in the United States is imported. Footwear imports are subject to some of the highest tariff rates on consumer goods, with some as high as 67.5%. Duty reductions on footwear provide meaningful benefits both to the importer and U.S. consumers who must bear the bulk of the duty cost. In short, providing duty relief on non-sensitive footwear as proposed in the MTB process would support good paying U.S. jobs in design, logistics and retail, while allowing our members to provide better value to our customers.

Therefore, I present this letter in support of the following MTBs covering footwear products:

H.R. 4502  
H.R. 4503  
H.R. 4504  
H.R. 4505  
H.R. 4891

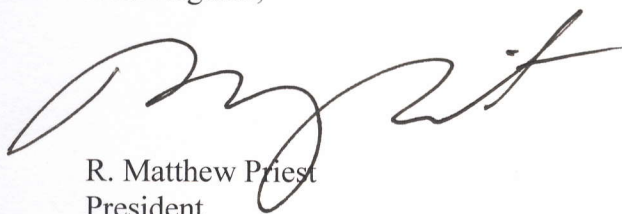
H.R. 5165  
H.R. 5166  
H.R. 5175  
H.R. 5176  
H.R. 5177

H.R. 4892	H.R. 5330
H.R. 4893	H.R. 5423
H.R. 4894	H.R. 5424
H.R. 4895	H.R. 5425
H.R. 4896	H.R. 5426
H.R. 4897	H.R. 5427
H.R. 4898	H.R. 5428
H.R. 4899	H.R. 5429
H.R. 4900	H.R. 5430
H.R. 4901	H.R. 5431
H.R. 4926	H.R. 5432
H.R. 4927	H.R. 5559
H.R. 4928	H.R. 5560
H.R. 4929	H.R. 5561
H.R. 4993	H.R. 5562
H.R. 4994	H.R. 5564
H.R. 4995	H.R. 5616
H.R. 5029	H.R. 5617
H.R. 5030	H.R. 5618
H.R. 5164	H.R. 5619

FDRA commends your leadership and support of the miscellaneous bill process and it is our hope that the MTB will continue to be an effective tool to relieve the unnecessary burden of tariffs on non-controversial imports.

Thank you for again for your leadership on behalf of our entire industry and the broader American trade community. Our members look forward to an expedient passage of this important legislation.

Best Regards,



R. Matthew Priest  
President